



NEWS OF THE WEEK

From all Parts of the New and Old World.

BRIEF AND INTERESTING ITEMS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Current Week.

No appointments will be made by the president during the recess of congress except in case of emergency. Despite the announcement of this fact, the number of visitors at the White House are unusually large.

The long-continued cold and heavy snow of the past month are beginning to have a serious effect upon sheep in Wyoming, and it is feared that, unless there is a break in the weather soon, the losses will be heavy. Sheepmen report that a number have already perished.

The controller of the currency has received information of the failure of the First National bank, of Pembina, N. D. The bank has a capital of \$50,000, and, according to its last statement, had deposits aggregating \$95,000. Bank Examiner Anheiser has been placed in charge.

Mr. Coffin, the acting controller of the currency has called attention to the fact that the retirement of national bank notes during the first 20 days of December reached the sum of \$3,000,000. This is said to be the first time during the last 10 years that the voluntary retirement has reached this amount in any one month.

After a week of conference in Boston, Justices Putnam and King, the commissioners for the United States and Canada, respectively, in the arbitration of the Behring sea claims, have completed their work for the present, and it is understood will soon begin the preparation of their reports to their respective governments.

The first meeting of the National Building Trades Council was held at St. Louis, and was marked by a scathing denunciation of the American Federation of Labor for having passed a resolution at Nashville opposing the formation of the national council. The Federation of Labor opposed the new organization as tending to create a further division in the ranks of labor.

Fireman Martin J. Oakley was killed at a fire in a house story tenement on East Forty-fourth street, New York city. Oakley was suffocated by smoke and escaping gas. Assistant Fireman Thomas Head, James Davis and Peter Connelly, of the same company, were rendered unconscious by inhaling smoke and gas, and were with difficulty revived. They are in hospitals, and their condition is serious.

While skating on the ice near Gardner, Miss, three young people suddenly broke through, and before assistance could reach them were drowned.

At Tonawanda, N. Y., while a party were skating, the ice gave way and precipitated four young people into the water. Three of them were drowned. China approves of the Russian fleet wintering at Port Arthur, being persuaded that this action is taken in the interest of China, and necessitated by the German occupation of Kiau Chou.

A rate war is on between the various river transportation lines running to The Dalles. A reduction of fare from The Dalles to Portland is the result. This cut in rates has been looked upon by the public since the opposition line was put on, some two months ago.

F. M. Gideon, the clerk of the general land office, who was referred to by Thomas Reddington in the testimony before the senate Pacific railroad committee, Saturday, as having changed the land-office records so as to throw 5,000,000 acres of government land to the Southern Pacific, has made a clear denial of the charge.

A dispatch from Christiania, Norway, to the London Chronicle, says on political situation, since the failure of the united committee on foreign affairs, has become critical, and it is feared that Sweden will seek an occasion for armed intervention in Norway. The dispatch adds that the Swedish press hopes for assistance from Emperor William.

The committee appointed at the house civil service conference 10 days ago to draft modifications of the civil service law have met and gone over the various bills pending before the house. The committee expects to have a measure framed by the time congress reconvenes. Its members are opposed to the present law as including too many offices within its scope.

A freight train of 21 loaded cars, traveling down the mountain to Altoona, Pa., became unmanageable in consequence of the slippery condition of the tracks, making the 12 miles from Gallitz into Altoona in as many minutes and crashing into a freight train directly in front of the passenger station. About 50 cars were completely broken up, and the Hollidaysburg passenger train, which was standing on the track near the passenger station, was thrown over on its side. Three of the train crew were fatally injured.

Secretary Alger has cabled to William Akellman, chief government reindeer herder, who is now in Norway, to inform the war department immediately how soon 600 reindeer can be shipped to this country. These are wanted for use as draft animals in getting supplies to the miners in the Klondike region. They must be transferred at New York to railroads, and in that manner carried across the continent, and again by sea from the Pacific coast up to Dyea, or some other point that may be selected as a base of operations.

TO ACQUIRE MORE TERRITORY

Senator Lodge Wants Us to Buy St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A special to the Times-Herald from Washington says: Senator Lodge is preparing a bill favoring the purchase of the three islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, owned by Denmark, in the West Indies. The senate passed a resolution a year ago asking the state department to ascertain whether the islands were still for sale, at what price they were held, and whether any other country was after them. Denmark has replied that she is still willing to sell, and that two European governments are now negotiating for their purchase. These are supposed to be Great Britain and Germany. The United States has been discussing the purchase for nearly 30 years. In 1868, negotiations went so far that a treaty was negotiated for the purchase, by which this country was to pay \$5,000,000 for the islands, but it failed of ratification. It has been determined by Denmark to either sell these islands or give them away. St. Thomas has a harbor large enough to accommodate the navies of the entire world, and in view of the advantages to be gained, Senator Lodge is sanguine of securing an appropriation that will enable the islands to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Stars and Stripes. The three islands have a total of 100 square miles of territory and a population of 40,000.

INDIANS FIRED FIRST.

Special Agent Reynolds' Report on the Rott County Conflict.

Denver, Dec. 28.—The report of Special Agent E. B. Reynolds, on the recent conflict between Indians and game wardens in Rott county, is a complete vindication of Warden Wilcox and his men. Mr. Reynolds, after taking the testimony of six Indians and the 12 wardens who were in the unfortunate affair, said:

"I am fully convinced, after having examined the case fully, and after taking the testimony of both parties, after meeting the men face to face and reading their characters and noting their demeanor, that the Indians fired the first shot."

He further states that no blame whatever can be by any possibility be attached to the wardens. He finds that, after the first shot, the shooting became general, and when the smoke cleared away, it was found that several Indians had been killed. The wardens declared there were six Indians shot, while the Indians say there were but three killed. Mr. Reynolds agrees with the Indians on this point.

ANOTHER SOCIETY SUICIDE.

That of Miss Annie Virginia Wells, a Friend of M. M. Herbert.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The death of Miss Letitia Herbert, daughter of the secretary of the navy, is given as the reason of the suicide which occurred to Miss Annie Virginia Wells, an accomplished young society woman, and daughter of Lewis S. Wells, a well-known attorney. The young woman shot herself through the heart with her brother's revolver at the residence of her father, 1811 N. street. Miss Wells had met Miss Herbert a number of times, and was very much attached to her. She herself had been confined to the house for four months by illness, and this, combined with the shock caused by the death of her friend, brought on melancholia, which resulted in suicide. The deed was apparently unpremeditated, and, coming immediately after the Christmas festivities had been in the house, completely prostrated the aged mother. Miss Wells was 33 years of age, and very beautiful.

HE INTENDED TO KILL.

But His Victim Died of Heart Failure Caused by Excitement.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—A Japanese known as Je Tagoni fired four shots at Mary Costello, a Spanish woman, in the lodging-house at 91 Sacramento street, this morning. None of the bullets struck the woman, but she dropped dead. The body bears no sign of a wound, and the physicians say death was caused by heart failure, induced by extreme excitement.

About a year ago, Tagoni opened an employment agency, and engaged Miss Costello as an assistant. By promising marriage he induced her to live with him. Recently she left the place where he had resided. After making many threats to kill her on sight, the Japanese met her today and accomplished his murderous design, though in an unexpected and sensational manner.

Digging Near Dyea.

Dyea, Alaska, Dec. 28.—Considerable excitement prevails here at present over the reported gold finds on one of the tributaries of the Dyea river, only a mile above the town. Prospectors have been flocking in, and have staked the creek off for a distance of 10 miles. The creek has been named Boom creek, and from 200 to 300 men are now on the ground and at work.

The surface indications are excellent, running in places 25 feet to the top, and increasing as the shafts go down. Many companies are forming, both to work claims and purchase properties. All the diggings are on American soil, and many more claims will be staked off within the next few days.

Mazzalini's Last Bullfight.

City of Mexico, Dec. 28.—The last of the series of bullfights by Mazzalini was given this afternoon, and was attended by 7,000 people. Tomas Mazzalini narrowly escaped with his life, being tossed by an infuriated bull, and gored in the hand. Ten horses were killed, and six bulls, the usual number. The fight was not up to the usual standard.

Seven lions are among the pets of the sultan of Morocco.

FOOD RUNNING SHORT

Dawson City and Fort Yukon on Reduced Rations.

SAYS JOHN LINDSAY OF OLYMPIA

Yukon Piled High With Ice, Making Teaming by the River Route an Impossibility.

Port Townsend, Dec. 28.—John Lindsay, of Olympia, Wash., who has just arrived here from Dawson, says that there will surely be starvation there this winter.

He examined into the food situation in a thorough manner, he says, and after satisfying himself that there would be starvation, he sold his outfit and, in company with Frank Ballaine, of Olympia; Tom Stoney, of Victoria, and Bob Glynn, of Seattle, started out on foot, each man drawing a sled carrying about 140 pounds of provisions.

Lindsay says the Dawson people declare that there is no great amount of food at Fort Yukon, as has been alleged. The river rose sufficiently and remained open long enough to enable food supplies to have been brought from Fort Yukon, had there been any there, so the majority of the people at Dawson refused to go down to the camp, preferring to remain in Dawson. Not more than 300 or 400 people took advantage of the transportation company's offer to take the people to Fort Yukon free of charge.

When the miners at Dawson found that no more provisions would reach the town by the river route, they announced that a meeting would be held to take steps for an apportioning of the provisions in the town. Those that had plenty, they said, must share with those who had not.

Captain Constantine, of the Northwest mounted police, interfered, and told the miners that no such thing would be permitted. The meeting was not held.

Lindsay says the output of the mines will be greatly curtailed this winter because of the scarcity of food and light. Coal oil sold for \$45 a gallon, and candles as high as \$150 per box of 100. Even if men are able to work their claims, they cannot get light to do so.

These statements are borne out by all returning Klondikers, quite a number of whom have reached here in the past week. Few of them, however, take as gloomy a view of the situation as does Lindsay.

Dr. B. L. Bradley, of Roseburg, Or., says that food is scarce, but he does not think that there will be actual starvation. Neither do W. B. King, of Merced, Cal.; P. J. Holland, of Butte, Mont.; Thomas Stoney, of Victoria, or Robert Glynn, of Seattle, all of whom arrived this week from Dawson. Most of them left there November 2.

As an evidence of the scarcity of food in Dawson, Lindsay relates the case of Dr. Van Sants, formerly of Spokane. Dr. Van Sants is an elderly man, and being without provisions or money, he offered a gold watch for a sack of flour. He could not get it, and he remarked to Lindsay:

"God only knows how I am to keep body and soul together."

Lindsay says 200 or more miners are prospecting at the mouth of Stewart river, but as yet, it is not known what success they have achieved.

Henderson creek, five miles below Stewart river, and 40 miles from Dawson, is a promising stream that is being developed this winter. The weather about the Stewart and Big Salmon rivers has been bitterly cold, 70 degrees below zero being recorded at Major Walsh's camp, 12 miles below the Big Salmon, on November 17.

The Yukon river between Dawson and Fort Relly, froze completely over November 18. The river is piled full of ice in great ridges, as high as an ordinary house, and a roadway will have to be cut through it before the dog or horse teams can operate upon it. The outlook, therefore, for taking supplies down to Dawson in the immediate future is not good.

Inspector of Mines McGregor left here a week ago with a number of dog teams and horses to make the attempt to reach Dawson with about 20 tons of provisions, but nothing has since been heard of him.

Peary's Next Trip.

New York, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the World from Washington says: Lieutenant R. E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, who returned from England on the St. Paul, immediately upon his arrival in New York took the train for Washington. Lieutenant Peary tonight was enthusiastic over his reception in England, and the gift to him by Alfred C. Harmsworth, the wealthy Englishman, of the Windward, a fine ship, which the explorer will use in his trip to the Arctic next year. Mr. Harmsworth also furnished funds for the expedition. Lieutenant Peary said the Windward will be sent to New York early in the spring, and he will start north the latter part of July. Lieutenant Peary started for New York tonight to finish work on his narrative which is in the publisher's hands.

Heavy Fog in England.

London, Dec. 28.—Heavy fogs prevailed in the district of London and over the British channel, the Mersey, the Clyde and the Tyne. There have been numerous shipping accidents, and much inconvenience has been caused to traffic by delays and stoppages. It is feared that several lives have been lost.

Muskets were first used in 1414 by the French army.

ADRIFF IN A GALE.

Rough Experience of the Steamer Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse.

New York, Dec. 27.—The giantess of ocean liners, the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, of the North German Lloyd line, arrived from Bremen a day late. She brought over 461 cabin and 393 steerage passengers. The passengers told of a terrible experience. From Cherbourg she met gale after gale.

On the third day out from Cherbourg, while a heavy sea was running and nearly all of the passengers were seasick in the berths, the ship's machinery was suddenly stopped. Some of the officers thought the machinery had broken, others that the engines had gone to pieces, and still others that the rudder was disabled. After the ponderous vessel was hove to she began to drift. For eight hours she was adrift till she was 50 miles out of her course, when she started again.

The facts in the case are that on the evening of the 19th the head of the main boiler was wobbling. Investigation showed that one of the steel bands had broken off. To prevent the boiler from vibrating and a possible explosion, it was necessary to draw the fire, stop the ship and allow the parts to cool. Captain Englehart laughed when the idea of danger in connection with the break was mentioned.

THE METHOD WAS FIENDISH.

Jacob Weinan Strangled With Cloth Rummaged Down His Throat.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—A post mortem was held yesterday on the remains of Jacob Weinan, who was found dead in his kitchen Friday evening, having been murdered. At the time a towel was found tightly twisted about his throat, but the post mortem revealed a peculiarly fiendish method the murderers had resorted to. Far down in the man's throat, tightly imbedded in the bronchial tubes, was a wad of thick cloth, which had been wrapped with horsehair. Fingers could not have reached that far, and a stick was probably used to ram the wadding down. In 1893 a soldier at Jefferson barracks was murdered in a similar manner, and the similarity of the murder of Friday with the latter has caused excitement in police circles.

TO CONTROL COAL MARKET.

Plans of a Great Combine Forming in the East.

New York, Dec. 27.—It has developed that a big coal-selling combination of the anthracite railroads whereby the production is to be doled out by the supreme head, is only a part of a vast project for control of the entire coal industry in the East. J. Pierpont Morgan's plan involves the creation of a similar central selling agency to cover each of the great bituminous coal districts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois and a uniform working arrangement between them that shall put a stop to rate cutting and demoralization of trade.

The companies are to agree upon the proportion each is to mine and haul, and the selling company is to call upon them accordingly as fast as it needs coal for the market.

TRAIN WRECKERS AT LARGE.

Futile Attempt Made to Ditch a Burlington Passenger.

Thayer, Dec. 27.—A futile attempt was made between here and Murray last night to throw from the track the Burlington train No. 2. Whether the attempt was made for the purpose of robbery or for maliciousness is not known at present. About 9:30 o'clock as the train was approaching the foot of Murray hill, the engine left the track. Fortunately no particular damage was done to the train, nor was anyone on board injured. On examinations it was found the track had been tampered with, and footprints of men were seen on the hill leading away from the roadbed. Spikes had been pulled out of the ties for three rail lengths, the work being done with a wrench and pinbar, which had been stolen from the carhouse at Thayer.

Would Abolish Coroner's Office.

New York, Dec. 27.—The December grand jury handed to Judge Hurd, in the county court today, a recommendation that the office of coroner be abolished, because the office is of no practical effect in ferreting out crimes; the methods are open to the most severe censure; the manner of conducting the business is inefficient, and the power of the coroner is delegated to subordinates, whose chief functions seem to be to collect fees incidental to their office for their chief.

Good News for Hawaii.

Honolulu, Dec. 27.—The Mariposa arrived from San Francisco yesterday, bringing news of the opening of congress. Regarding the annexation treaty, the Hawaiian government received advice from Washington on the day the steamer sailed, which state that the opposition is not as strong as indicated in the press dispatches.

Wages in the South Go Up.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 27.—The Coronado Coal Company and the Virginia & Alabama Coal Company, employing about 1,200 coal miners, in Walker county, today announced that January 1, they will advance wages from 60 to 70 cents per ton.

Sain by Congo Natives.

Lisbon, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from St. Paul de Loanda, Portuguese Lower Guinea, says that the natives of the Humbo plateau, in the Portuguese colony of Angola, have massacred a Portuguese officer, a sergeant and 12 men. Reinforcements have been sent from St. Paul de Loanda. Angola is south of the Congo Free State. The colony has been held by the Portuguese since 1482, and they have a number of forts and commercial establishments.

THE SEALING AWARD

Findings of the Commission Reach State Department.

TOTAL NEARLY HALF A MILLION

Damages for Prospective Catch Were Not Allowed—Congress Will Be Asked to Pay It.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The findings of the British-American commission chosen to assess the damages for seizures of British ships in Behring sea have been received by the state department and the British embassy. The strictest reticence is maintained, however, on the general character of the findings, though it is admitted the total award against the United States is 464,000, which includes principal and interest. The finding against this government is no surprise.

The controversy has occupied the attention of the authorities here and in London for the last 11 years. At the outset the tone of the controversy was belligerent, suggesting a possible resort to arms. This was following the seizure, by the United States steamer Corwin, of the British sealers Carolina and Thornton, on August 1, 1886. The facts of the seizure were not known until some time later, and in the meantime, the Corwin had taken the onward and favorable. The same policy of seizure and confiscation occurred during the next sealing season, despite the protests of Great Britain, the United States steamer Rush taking the Sayward, Grace, Anna Pack, Dolphin, Alfred Adams, Triumph, Junita, Pathfinder, Black Diamond, Lilly, Arctic and Kate and Minnie, and the cutter Bear taking the Arcturion.

The claims for these seizures took a wide range, beginning with the value of the vessels and outfits, and including not only the value of sealskins confiscated, but also the skins which might have been taken if the ships had not been seized. This last feature of prospective damage caused the main contention. In the case of each British ship, the largest item of the claim was for estimated future catch. For instance, in the case of the Carolina, the claim for the ship was only \$4,000, while that for skins which might have been taken that year it she had not been seized was \$16,667. Each ship estimated a prospective catch of from 3,500 to 5,000 skins, the value being from \$3.50 per skin in 1887 to \$12.35 in 1889. The total of the claims, without interest, amounted to \$439,161, and with interest at 8 per cent and other charges, the total reached \$786,166.

The only official statement that could be secured here of the judgment reached by the commissioners is contained in the following announcement given out at the state department: "The award of the Behring sea claims commission has been filed in the department. The claims as presented by the British government on account of British vessels seized in Behring sea, aggregated, with interest, \$1,500,000. These included several cases not embraced in the settlement proposed by Secretary Gresham. The award now made amounts to \$234,161.91, to which will increase the total about 50 per cent. The award is final, and disposes of all cases before it. Payment under the treaty must be made within six months."

The departmental officials, it is assumed, will proceed at once to prepare a bill or an amendment to one of the appropriation bills for submission to congress, covering the necessary appropriation to pay the judgments, for, being bound by treaty not only to pay any judgments rendered, but to pay them promptly, the government is in honor bound to take the remaining steps toward a settlement in short order.

There appears to be little doubt that the United States carried its point on the question involved, as the prospective damages were evidently scaled down to an insignificant amount, or rejected entirely. While the department officials will make no definite announcement to this effect, intimations are given that the smallness of the award precludes the possibility of any allowance having been made on account of prospective damages. The American claims commissions established the precedent that no prospective damages could be included in a claim, and the present award is evidently on the same line.

General J. W. Foster, who is now in general charge of Behring sea affairs, said tonight, as to the award, that he was not surprised at the result. President Cleveland having officially declared that \$425,000 was a just and equitable sum in settlement, and having appointed as the American commissioner to adjudicate the claims a close personal and political friend, it could hardly be expected that the latter would strenuously contend for an award of a less amount. Mr. Foster was absent from the country in Japan when congress took action on President Cleveland's recommendation, but he regarded the commission as the proper method of reaching a settlement, and the only one which would satisfy the country.

It has been many years since the tax collections of Umatilla county have showed such satisfactory footings as they do this fall. For the last two preceding years there was not an attempt made to collect the overwhelming list of delinquencies with which the books at the sheriff's office were filed, for the taxpayers were in such straits that it would have been of little avail to do so. But it remained for 1897 to be the banner year, and for the last several weeks the delinquent accounts have been rapidly paid off, until there remains but comparatively few to collect. For three years preceding the present tax collection year, the amounts of delinquencies that have been paid this fall amount to \$82,417.06, apportioned among the periods as follows: Taxes of 1895, \$23,602.75; 1894, \$7,814.31; 1893, \$1,500.

E. P. Wier, of Fossil, in Gilliam county, shipped several carloads of hogs from Fossil to Portland last week.

Hoffman & Hastain, of Fossil, are purchasing hogs and turning them into bacon. Last week they received 30 head from Frank Knox that averaged 271 pounds in weight, and 10 head from J. D. Livingston that averaged 170. The prices paid were 4 cents and 3.90 per pound, live weight, respectively, which made the hogs bring over \$11 a head.

THE ALASKAN FLEET.

Steamships Headed for the Northwest Business.

The fleet of steamships which is heading for the Pacific Northwest to participate in the Alaska rush is still receiving additions. The latest vessel reported is the British steamship Amur, which a Victoria trading company has purchased in London. The Amur is a comparatively new vessel, having been built in 1890. She is 216 feet long, 28.1 feet beam, and 11.3 feet depth of hold, and is 570 tons net register. In addition to about a dozen resurrected vessels already on this coast that will be in the Alaska service the following steamships are now reported as listed for the Pacific Northwest, some of them having already sailed: Bothnia, Seythia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Cottage City, Curacao, Conemaugh, City of Columbia, Valencia, Amur, Brixham.

Oregon Notes.

Sleds are now being used on the Union-Corvallis stage line, from a point four miles east of Medford springs to Cornucopia, in Union county.

The heaviest surf experienced since 1884 prevailed on the Curry county beach during the storms last week. Many of the miners lost their beach fixtures.

The report of Agent Emery shows a total of 1,020 Indians on the Klamath reservation, an increase of 59 over last year. These red men have been deprived of allowances for the past 13 years, and most of them are supporting themselves well.

A Lakewide paper says that a scow, to carry freight, has been put on Goose lake, in Lake county. The scow will be fitted with sails and will be navigated as well as may be that way until gasoline engines can be put on board of her.

A Southern Pacific official says that up to December, the present season's shipment of hops out of Oregon amounted to 26,000 bales, and since that time, 5,000 more bales have gone forward, making a total of 31,000, or nearly one-half of the 1897 crop.

The city council of Salem has accepted the proposition of E. J. Swafford, ex-city treasurer, and George Williams and J. A. Baker, his bondsmen, whereby they agree to pay \$4,000 before December 31, in full payment of the balance due the city from ex-treasurer Swafford.

Stock Inspector Vandvert, of Crook county, will soon have finished his semi-annual inspection of the sheep in Crook county. Only about 15 bands, out of about 330,000 head, remain uninspected. In all this lot, he has only found three bands infected with scab, and heard of two others that he will inspect later.

The Brownville Times is authority for the statement that the greater part of the hops in that vicinity are yet in the hands of the growers. Joseph and Pierce Hume and Michael Weber last week shipped their '97 crop to a New York commission house, and the hop men are anxiously awaiting the returns of this shipment.

The work of clearing out the dirt from the quarry at Point Terrace, on the Siuslaw, was finished last week. Part of the machinery has already been taken to the mouth of the river, and stored in the buildings there, and the rest will be placed there soon. Mr. Jacoburger, who has had charge of the work, informs the Florence West that he hopes to have all this business in Florence arranged so he can leave this week. About 45,000 tons of rock have been used and about 450 feet of jetty built this year, says the West. The channel has changed so that nearly all the water flows through the south entrance.

In the trial of Allen Logan in Dallas last week, on the charge of murdering Enoch Sylvester, the head of the dead was produced in court. The prosecution secured identification of the grow-some piece of evidence, and showed the jury fractures in the back part of the skull sufficient to cause death. The defense, however, produced as witnesses three of the physicians who had been present at the post-mortem, and established that the careful examination these physicians had made was with special reference to establish the fact whether or not the blow delivered by Logan fractured the skull, and each swore positively that at the post-mortem no such fractures were to be found. The head turned out to be a boomerang for the prosecution, and it probably contributed to the verdict in Logan's favor.

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THEY BLAME BLANCO

Ruiz Said to Have Been Driven to His Doom.

THE BAD FEELING IS INTENSE

It Is Reported That Ruiz Protested Vainly Against Undertaking the Fatal Mission.

New York, Dec. 27.—Indignation over the killing of Colonel Ruiz is intense in Havana, says the Herald correspondent. Many blame General Blanco, alleging that he forced General Ruiz to go, in spite of the latter's protestations that it meant certain death. All accounts agree that Colonel Aranguen was personally opposed to the infliction of the extreme penalty, and would have saved Ruiz, but his own life would have been sacrificed had he done so, in opposition to the orders of his superiors.

A cablegram has been received stating that General Lee has been instructed by Secretary Sherman to notify General Gomez and other rebels that they need expect no American sympathy if they continued to permit firing on flags of truce. General Lee says he has received no instructions, adding that he knew of no instance of the display by the Spaniards of a flag of truce during this war. It has never been claimed by the Spanish authorities that Colonel Ruiz was under a flag of truce, that institution being unknown to the Spanish army in Cuba, its use being interdicted as involving recognition of the insurgents as belligerents.

Much excitement was caused on Sunday morning when a small white warship, bearing a strong resemblance to the United States gunboat Annapolis, was seen approaching the harbor. A rumor spread that an American warship was coming in, and the people became frenzied when the stranger's guns opened in a salute to the forts, many believing the city was being bombarded. It was soon apparent that the vessel was the German schooner Stein, but several hours elapsed before quiet was restored in the city.

All last night raging fires have been visible southwest of Havana, only ten miles away. Standing cane on the Toledo and Potugate stations, which was about to commence grinding, was set on fire by the rebels and completely destroyed. The fire caused great consternation in Havana.

Within Sight of Havana.

Havana, Dec. 27.—The recent unfortunate mission of Colonel Ruiz to the camp of Colonel Aranguen in this province calls attention sharply to the remarkable circumstances that a Spanish officer and a messenger from the American consulate could reach the insurgent camp in an hour after leaving Havana, when the troops have never found it, and causes sharp comment on the military operations. The camp is a few miles from a Spanish fortress, and its location has been known for nine months.

Ruiz' friends among the volunteers and armed brethren of Havana censure General Blanco, and call for vengeance on the insurgents. From their camp the insurgents have sent a defiant communication to the troops to come and take it.

JUST OUT FROM DAWSON.

Latest Report Is That There Is Food Enough to Last All Winter.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27.—D. P. Quinlan, who arrived here this afternoon on the City of Seattle, brings late news from Dawson. He says there is enough food in Dawson to last the 6,000 men now there all winter, those without food—2,000 in number—having gone to Fort Yukon. Two hundred will come out over the trails.

Major Walsh, who is now encamped at Big Salmon, will endeavor to break a trail through to Dawson, but he does not expect to reach there until February 1. He says